



## Plant sap sampling guide

### *Alfalfa*



#### Contact details

NovaCropControl  
Gasthuisstraat 20  
5061 PB Oisterwijk  
The Netherlands  
Info@novacropcontrol.nl  
[www.novacropcontrol.nl](http://www.novacropcontrol.nl)



## ***Collecting and submitting samples***

### **Location**

Take the following steps into consideration when collecting leaf samples:

- Avoid the outer rows of the field and the first and last 10 yards of a row.
- Sample leaves of average leaf quality.
- Sample abnormal plants (with deficiency symptoms) separately. If a deficiency might be present in the young or old leaves of the total crop, sample these leaves separately as a young or old leaf sample.
- Keep in mind the sunny and shady side of the plant. Always consistently sample the same side.

### **Time of sampling**

It is strongly recommended to take the samples before 9:00 AM. The plant will then have enough leaf-tension with proper moisture conditions.

Begin with sampling when the shooting is started, from then on every 2 or 3 weeks until a week before harvest.

### **Plant parts**

An alfalfa sample consists out of a young leaf sample and an old leaf sample. For the young leaf sample, pick the **youngest, fully developed leaves**. For an old leaf sample, pick the **oldest, but still vital leaves**. Remove the petioles from the leaves, as they will not give a good indication and influence the analyses. (See picture 1).

It is not allowed to send in samples that have a fungal, bacterial or virus infection. The leaves must also be free from insects.





Youngest,  
developed leaf



Remove the petiole



Oldest, vital leaf

Picture 1

**Sample size**

The sample will have enough mass when the weight is about **150 grams**.

If you are unsure about the sample size, please feel free to contact us.





### Packing the leaf samples

When the leaves are wet because of rain or dew, dry them first with a tissue (see pic. 2, grass as an example). Leaves have to be dry from the outside to be analyzed because water will have an influence on the results. Moreover, the leaves will spoil faster if there is water in the sample bag.



Pic. 2

Pack the young and old leaf samples separately, these will be two different samples. Put them in a plastic zip-lock bag. Make sure all air is out, so any leaf evaporation is excluded (see pictures below, tomato leaf as an example).



Fill in the labels correctly and place them on the bags (see pictures below). We prefer pre-printed labels because it saves us a lot of administration time. It has also advantages for you:

- When using Bemesting-Online program you need the same location names and crop names to make comparisons (graphs), pre-printed labels make this a lot easier;
- If our employees must read what is on the label, the chance of reading errors is very high, this is not the case with preprinted labels;
- You no longer must write the location and crop name on the label on the spot.

Let us know if you need help with this.







### **Sending the sample**

The sample zip-lock bags with barcode can be sent in an envelope (make sure it fits in a mailbox (max 3,5 cm. high)). In case you want to send more than one sample, please send them together in 1 box, so they will arrive together. Then put sufficient postage on the envelope or package. Always check the weight. Please take care that envelopes are sealed well. You can put an extra tape over the closure to avoid opening during transportation.

We recommend to sample crops on Friday and send the same day by DHL or FedEx, then NovaCropControl is receiving your samples in the beginning of the next week. Please put €1.00 as the shipment value on the sample package.

Do you ship samples from outside Europe? To avoid clearance delay at the customs please consult our shipment guide for sending samples to Europe. You can find this guide at our website:

<https://www.novacropcontrol.nl/en/sampling>

Please send samples to the address below:

**NovaCropControl**  
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